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Application No. 09/665,608

Examiner: Justine Yu
Group Art Unit 3764

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SEP 09 2002

MASSAGE AND TACTILE STIMULATION DEVICE

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Submission For Request For Continued Examination

Response to Claim Objections

The objection to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a) has been corrected by “a stationary bonding means” being shown by pressure sensitive adhesive 11 in FIG. 2.

Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5, 6, and 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. 112 second paragraph, but applicant has amended claims to overcome rejection as outlined.

Examiner rejected claims 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Wroclawski however claim 8 has been revised as the device of claim 1 without one or more friction areas located at a third effective working area and stationary projections located exclusively at first and second effective working areas versus “burls located at equal distances from each over the entire inside of the glove” clearly differentiating the present claims. Dependent claims 9 and 10 have been cancelled.

Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Lohati, however the new claims as amended clearly differentiates this present invention. Lohati teaches a rotating ball assembly 13 that is dimensioned to rotatably retain the ball 13b allowing the ball 13b to rotate easily in all directions while remaining captive within the base. The attachment of the assembly 13 to the glove 12 is in an arrangement that effectively covers the glove palm. However, although the predetermined upward projections in this present invention are attached to glove 10 by a pressure sensitive adhesive, they are stationary and are located on glove 10 exclusively at effective working

areas to affect deeper tissues and **not** to “effectively” cover a particular area of device.

The rotating ball assembly of Lohati prevents effective massage and tactile stimulation of the deeper tissues in the human body and the unimportance of strategic placing of rotating ball assemblies prevents individual use of ball assemblies as well.

Examiner rejected claims 2, 3, 5, and 6 under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a). However, because applicant believes amended claim 1 is believed to be allowable, claims 2, 3, 5, and 6 are also believed to be allowable.



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Claims: I claim:

1. [Thrice Amended] A massage and tactile stimulation device comprising a glove [hand covering] made of a resilient material having a front [palm] wall and a back wall [, said walls] connected by a means for joining two pieces of material to form fingers, a palm area and a backhand area, said glove having a first effective working area on the front wall of said fingers, a second effective working area located on the back wall of said fingers [said palm are], and a third effective working area located on said palm area, said glove having one or more upward projections of at least 0.14 inches (3.5mm) in height secured at said first and second [one or more] effective working areas of the glove, [said projection attached to said glove by means providing for stationary bonding,] said device having [being with] one or more friction areas attached to said glove at said third effective working area[s] said upward projections and said friction areas being attached to said glove by [means providing for] a stationary bonding means wherein no [on] part of the upward projections and the friction areas move with respect to said glove walls.
2. The glove of claim 1 wherein said resilient material is lycra or spandex.
3. The glove of claim 1 wherein said means for joining [2] two pieces of material is sewing.
5. [4.] The glove of claim 1 wherein said effective working area for said projection exclusively includes pad of digits, a palm, and [region of proximal] phalanges region.
6. [5]. The glove of claim 1 wherein bonding for said projections and said friction area is pressure sensitive adhesion.
8. [6.] The device of claim 1 without friction areas attached to said glove at a third effective working area. [A massage and tactile stimulation device for manual control and operation

constructed of a flexible rubber-like material that contours to the anatomy of the underlying joints and part of body covered by said device, said device having one or more predetermined stationary prominent projections made of a plastic [rubber-like] material providing a means for deep and point specific pressure to affect deeper tissues of recipient of said device, said projections located at a first effective working area of said device.]

9. [7.] The device of claim 8 [6] wherein [parts of body covered by] said device can be worn on either of a users hand, elbow, and foot. [includes one of the following: a hand, an elbow, and a foot.] Cancelled.

10. [8.] The device of claim 8 [6] wherein effective working area[s] for said projections include finger pads, a palm, knuckles, an elbow, and a sole of the foot.

Cancelled.

whereby deep pressure is imparted by said device

and

whereby said projections optimize the benefits of massage and tactile stimulation.